

COMMONWEALTH



OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNAL

OF

THE COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC

AND

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

VOLUME I.

1927-28

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Price, single copy, 1s. 6d.

Annual Subscription, 5s. Post Free

By Authority :

H. J. Green, Government Printer, Melbourne

FOREWORD.

A suggestion to publish a journal somewhat on the lines of the British journal *Nature*, or the American journal *Science*, was considered by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research last year, but was not adopted. Since then, evidence has accumulated which has led the Council to adopt the suggestion in a modified form. Valuable reports and information relating to Australia's industries and the scientific problems which confront them are being collected from authoritative sources; many of these reports are of wide general interest and therefore merit publicity. Universities and State Departments are steadily becoming associated more or less intimately with the Council in research activities, while, at the same time, they are carrying on important work quite independently. It is necessary that close touch be maintained between all these organizations, and that every care be taken to avoid the inefficiency which comes from overlapping, lack of co-operation, and ignorance of the work and results of others. This Journal, which will be published quarterly, will provide a means of disseminating general information as to Australia's scientific problems and as to scientific research work in progress throughout the Commonwealth. It is hoped that all Australian research institutions will use it for making known their activities, so opening the way for at least some measure of mutual discussion, assistance, and national team work.

Possibly, too, the Press to whom it will be issued before it is made available generally, may find it of value in directing attention to major scientific problems of the day and to the work which is being carried out in an endeavour to overcome them.

If the Journal is found to fill a useful place, it will no doubt develop along lines, not all of which can at present be foreseen. With this issue it makes an unpretentious beginning.—ED.

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research,

314 Albert Street, East Melbourne.

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